

ST GUTHLAC'S COMMUNITY NEWS



Parish Church of St Guthlac
Knighton, Leicester LE2 3LF

<https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk/>



Sunday 11 July 2021
Sixth Sunday after Trinity

Next Week, beginning 12th July, Adrian and Matthew will both be away on family holidays. Therefore, please contact the Wardens for general enquiries and questions, and the Revd Canon Stephen Foster or the Revd Janet Gasper for pastoral matters (contact details towards the back of the newsletter).

MORNING PRAYER BOOKING SYSTEM

Sunday 11TH July 10:30am

This Sunday 11TH July at 10.30am, Revd Adrian Jones will be leading a service of Morning Prayer.

In order to maintain social distancing, we have to limit the number of people who can attend each service; our current calculation is that we can seat a maximum of 21 individuals, small households or 'bubbles' safely at any one time. This is sadly very limiting. Consequently, we need to use a booking system.

If you would like to attend, please contact Tina to book a place.
churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

THE SERVICE

Before the service

- Please arrive by 10.25 to allow time to direct you to your seat.
- When you arrive, you may have to queue for a while - please maintain a distance of 2m from others.
- Please wear a face covering as you queue and all the time you are in the church - we have some extras for those who cannot obtain their own.
- You will be welcomed and asked to sanitise your hands.

- The steward will ask you to give or check your contact details. The Steward only will write these down. These details will only be shared in the unlikely event that anyone develops symptoms. This is to protect everyone.
- You will be directed to a seat. Please sit only in this place as we need to maintain distances and reduce movement.
- Please note there are no toilets available.

The service

- You will find the relevant book(s) and/or service sheet with the day's readings and prayers on your chair.
- A member of the Benefice Team will lead the service.
- The choir is not able to lead us in worship and we can't sing any hymns.

For Eucharist services:

The sharing of the bread or blessing

- Great care will be taken to protect the safety of the congregation. Only the priest will handle the elements and vessels, and then only after sanitising their hands. There will be no assistant. The wafers for the congregation will be covered while the priest consecrates them.
- After the priest takes his/her wine and priest's wafer, he/she will put on a mask and sanitise hands again. Only then will the small individual wafers be uncovered and given to the congregation. Only wafers will be offered, not wine. At the distribution, Holy Communion will be administered in silence.
- Please stay in your seats the celebrant will come out to you in turn.
- If you wish to receive the bread, please hold out your hands. The priest will 'drop' the wafer into the outstretched hands, taking care not to touch them.

- There is no obligation to take the bread. If you wish to receive a blessing, please hold up your service booklet. If you prefer to pray quietly and not to receive either please fold your arms.

After the service

- Leave your service sheet and books on your chair.
- Please keep your distance from others as you leave and do not linger in the building - sadly we can't offer refreshments.
- If you wish to leave a donation, please put it in the small box provided.
- You will be asked to sanitise your hands as you leave.

When we have all gone, the church building will remain unused for 72 hours to eliminate any virus.

If you should feel unwell with any of the symptoms of coronavirus in the two weeks following the service, as well as seeking medical advice, please leave a message with Adrian or Matthew.

Important Update: Although the Government has said there will be no restrictions on communal worship after 19th July, there will be some strong advice in place that our PCC must take time to consider. There will also be revised guidance from the national Church of England at some point, and again we will need to talk this through in detail. The Bishop of London has urged a cautious approach to change by our churches. **Therefore, at the moment, we intend to keep our Sunday arrangements as they are, including for Sunday 25th July.** As soon as we can clarify the way ahead we will, of course, let you know! *Adrian*

Collect & Readings for the Sixth Sunday after Trinity

The Collect

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

First reading: Amos 7.7-15

⁷This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. ⁸And the LORD said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.' Then the Lord said,

'See, I am setting a plumb-line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by;⁹ the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'¹⁰ Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. ¹¹For thus Amos has said, "Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land."'¹² And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there;¹³ but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

¹⁴Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, ¹⁵and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

Psalm 85.8-end

Second reading: Ephesians 1.3-14

Gospel reading: Mark 6.14-29

¹⁴King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, 'John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him.' ¹⁵But others said, 'It is Elijah.' And others said, 'It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old.' ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, 'John, whom I beheaded, has been raised.'

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, 'It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife.' ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. ²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, 'Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it.' ²³And he solemnly swore to her, 'Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom.' ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, 'What should I ask for?' She replied, 'The head of John the Baptist.' ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king

and requested, 'I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptizer on a platter.' ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Reflection on Mark 6: 14-29

The Death of John the Baptist

The former teacher, comedian, and writer, Gervais Finn, tells of phoning up a Roman Catholic primary school, run by nuns, which was named after John the Baptist. Apparently, and Gervais Finn swears it is true, that the phone was always answered by the headteacher, who was a nun. She always answered with the words, "The head of John the Baptist. Can I help you?"

Leaving the funny stories to one side, the account of the execution of John the Baptist is one of the most shocking tales in the Bible. King Herod admired John for his teaching, but he had him arrested and put in prison for publicly pointing out that he should not have seduced his brother's wife and married her. This was against Jewish law and it was a huge scandal. Herodias, the woman in question, hated John the Baptist for this, and so it was she that encouraged her daughter, Salome, to ask for John's head as a reward for her dancing. Perhaps the most shocking element of this story, was the fact that a royal princess was dancing at a banquet! This shows how debauched and outrageous the Herodian royal family were.

This was the landscape in which the Christian Church grew up as it moved out into the Roman Empire where paganism ruled supreme. The pagan world could be even worse than the Jewish royal court. The early church in Ephesus, was struggling against all the odds. Ephesus was the great centre of the worship of the Greek goddess, Artemis. The temple was one of the great wonders of the ancient world, and it was rich because of this. And it was here, in one of the greatest centres of the pagan world, that the Ephesian church was trying to grow and develop.

The church in Ephesus probably consisted of perhaps less than a hundred people who met in a house somewhere in the city. There was no big purpose-built building like our church here. They must have faced huge challenges trying to break through centuries of pagan belief and practice with their message of God's love and forgiveness. Probably the early church in Ephesus wondered, as we do now, how they would ever be able to engage with the thousands of misguided people who focused only on the material things of life and the passing pleasures of their wealth and who were suspicious of what this new religion was teaching.

In many respects the church today in Britain is in a similar situation to the early church in Ephesus. Our society isn't pagan as such but is, generally speaking, disinterested in organised religion. People often though say that they **are** interested in spiritual things. People are looking for something, but many people know very little of our faith because they have had little or no contact with the church. Part of the problem that the early church had with the Roman Empire was that the authorities believed that the Christians carried out human sacrifice in their religious services. We face a similar (if less gory!) level of misunderstanding today. We need to overcome

this - and to do this we must come out of our beloved buildings and engage with people where they are!

For some of the great theologians, Paul's letter to the Ephesians is the most important of all the epistles, because it encourages the whole church to go out and spread the good news of Jesus Christ. To give people who are lost and lonely and find no meaning in life, the good news that: -

In Jesus we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of trespasses, according to his grace. (Ephesians 1:7). The Good News Bible translation puts it in simpler terms, when it says: -

For by the blood of Christ we are set free, that is, our sins are forgiven. How great is the grace of God?

Jesus' death on the cross means that we can be set free from the wrongs that we have committed, provided we also repent of those wrongs. This is the good news that we need to bring to people who often struggle to make sense of life, who are tired of searching for meaning in material things and in bucket list experiences. And, because of people's experiences during the COVID pandemic, more people are asking these questions today than for many years.

But we can't do that only from inside our parish church. If people are reluctant to come into church, then we must go out to them instead. That's exactly what Jesus did! We continue to worship here in this place, of course, but we must also be encouraged by Paul's words to go **out** from this place as well.

How might we give more of ourselves to those who are not yet part of our church family: more of our time; more of our energy; more of our focus; and more of our financial resources? Many believe that God is calling his whole church here in England to leave the safety of our treasured buildings and go to where the

people are and engage with them where they feel most comfortable.

In Jesus' 'Great Commission' to his disciples, which is our commission too, He said: -

“Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28:19-20 (Good News Translation)

Let us follow that command here and now, in our time, in this community. Amen.

From *The Homilies Project*

PRAYERS

Personal

Christian discipleship is not a question of our own doing, it is a matter of making room for God so that he can live in us

J. Heinrich Arnold

Church and Community

We pray for unity as our Diocese considers what our future ministry will look like and at a national level how questions about parish buildings and stipendary ministry and traditional churches being 'limiting factors' may be prompt for honest reflection which neither cultivates victimhood, or cavalier disregard for the Church of England's historic traditions and assets to enable belonging and presence throughout the country. We pray that St Guthlac's and all our churches may always be outward looking and thinking of our care for the local community and parish in all that we do.

Weekly prayer for roads in the parish – **Newchurch Close**

Nation and World

We thank God for our nation's success in our most popular sporting activity. We pray that at a time of low national morale, this recording breaking feat will affect for good our communities and families. We pray against the reported hidden domestic abuse against women which often goes in tandem with drinking and heightened footballing excitement. We pray for those families who may dread celebrations may be protected and comforted at this time. We thank God for the servant hearted leadership with our England manager and captain. We thank God for the public Christians in the squad giving glory to God with their open and positive witness of the importance of their faith.

Those facing personal pain we name before our Lord.

And those who have finished their days on this earth. We thank you for their lives and pray for their families and loved ones to be comforted.

For further prayer requests which can be included in the weekly prayer list or anonymized and prayed for in private, please contact Matthew revgough@gmail.com or Jane administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Funeral of Bob Newell: Following the sad news of Bob's death, I can now tell you that his funeral will be on Thursday 22nd July. At 10am there will be a Service of Committal at Countesthorpe Crematorium, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Bob's life at 11.30am at St Mary's. Everyone is warmly invited to either or both services.

Thanks from Brenda Lee

I want to thank everyone for their kindness during the pandemic and the support and help I was given during my recent move to Lutterworth . Those who patiently did my shopping for months , my friend who spent his lunch hours dismantling my kitchen, others who dealt with my recycling and discarding , hauling to charity shops and the tip , and all the admin. and visits to house agents etc that a house move entails ---- all of these and above all the support of prayer enabled me to stay fairly sane and optimistic . Thank my neighbours and thank especially the Christian community of the Benefice of Knighton.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME

Regular giving is an integral part of our church life supporting our day to day costs, ministry and mission. A good way to achieve this is through a weekly envelope or a monthly bank standing order as part of our Planned Giving Scheme. Scheme details can be obtained from David Hunt. If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your giving, our church can claim an additional 25%.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic please put aside your weekly offerings ready to bring to church when things return to something like normal. The costs of the church are largely unchanged even though we cannot meet, so your regular giving is extremely important to our collective 'health'

Post Lock down 'Teach in': An Introduction to the Gospels

Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster will be running a series of three lectures in **August** as an Introduction to the Gospels. Each session will be 50 minutes interaction/teaching, then 40 minutes tea/biscuits and further questions. The provisional titles are:

August 5th: *'What do YOU/WE know about the Gospels?'*

August 12th: *'What would YOU/WE call the Gospels?
History?...Story?...Theology?...?'*

August 19th: *WE look at St Mark...the first Gospel to be
written?*

All sessions will be held at 2.30pm in St Guthlac's and then repeated at 7.30pm in St. Mary's. They will take place in church to enable social distancing to take place if preferred.

Everyone is welcome to attend any/all of the sessions for an instructive and enjoyable get together.

Please bring a notebook and your favourite Bible to each lecture.

Cleaners needed

As the church is opened up we need help with cleaning. The church, toilet and kitchen area need regular cleaning. We hope to have a rota of cleaners. The more people on the rota the less often each person is needed.

Can you help? Please contact Tina churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk if you could help.

WORSHIP INFORMATION

BBC Radio 4 Sunday Worship 8.10am

BBC Radio 4 Daily Service each weekday 9.45am on long wave only. Catch up available for both of these on the BBC iPlayer and Sounds apps.

The benefice live stream service can be found on the St. Mary's Facebook page. **A recording** of the service will be available later that day at www.stmarysknighton.co.uk.

The Cathedral's live stream service can be found at <https://leicestercathedral.org/services/>

There is also a weekly online service from the Church of England. <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online/weekly-online-services>

Online Compline Night Prayer 8pm each Wednesday

and Monday Midday Prayer All Welcome. Same online joining details below for both: Join Zoom Meeting <https://leccofe.zoom.us/j/7467674408?pwd=NHRQZ2F0Mmt5Wk5sd2NMc1JtREpaUT09>

Or Phone In: 0131 460 1196 (standard call charge)
Meeting ID: 746 767 4408 Passcode: hope

St. Guthlac's services, Sunday at 10.30am

11th July - Morning Prayer

18th July - Eucharist

25th July -Morning Prayer

1st August -Eucharist

ST GUTHLAC'S AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Hopefully you will have noticed the arrival of a regular EcoTip in the newsletter and are enjoying discovering new ways to reduce our impact on the environment around us. You might even have wondered why suddenly they've started appearing. These fantastic tips are one part of a much bigger picture about how we, the community of St Guthlac's, interact with and care for our world.

St Guthlac's Church has always valued the natural world around us. We enjoy and care for the church garden as one of the few public green spaces in the area. We encourage our congregation and users of Holbrook Hall to recycle and not to waste food, energy or water. We support organisations that work to address the impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable in our world such as Christian Aid and the mobile clinics in Northern Malawi. However, we felt there was **more** we could do. During the last year a team have taken St Guthlac's Environmental Policy and built an environmental strategy for St Guthlac's, which was approved by the PCC in March. This may all sound a bit too much like large organisation bureaucracy but the strategy will help focus our efforts to do our part to address the real and present danger of climate change.

The strategy considers why we need to act, what we're going to do and also how we're going to do it. Its success will not be down to a few people. It aims to engage, encourage and support the **whole** community of St Guthlac's. A series of articles in the newsletter in the coming weeks and months will give details of the plan and provide regular updates on progress.

Next time we'll explore the question of "Why should St Guthlac's bother about the environment"

If you'd like to know more in the meantime please get in touch at Eco@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk.

STEWARDS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY SERVICES

Can you help to enable people to spend time in church? We need stewards each Sunday, to welcome and help people take their places in church in a safe and socially distanced way.

We aim to have two stewards each Sunday. It involves arriving before the service to open the church. Then to welcome people; check that they have booked; and to make sure they have masks and sanitise their hands. At the end of the service it is important to help people leave safely (and chat outside). Then lock the church.

Please contact David, if you can help.

Our Diocese is looking back and conducting a safeguarding review.....

We have all heard from the news over recent years about the tragedy of abuse endured by some children, young people and also adults. The Diocese of Leicester, along with the rest of the Church of England, has been conducting a review of church-related cases from the past. This review aims to check that all victims have had the opportunity to speak about their abuse and be heard, and that all cases have been considered in the right way and action taken where needed. The review is nearing its conclusion, but as you'll see from this poster there is still an opportunity for anyone who feels that they suffered from abuse within a church context, to give their views on the response made by the church at the time and since.

If you have any experience of abuse that you feel may not have been reported, recognised or acted on properly, then please do contact the names on the poster. If you would prefer, then get in touch with our parish safeguarding co-ordinators first: Ann Hunt (St Guthlac's) and Cora Paul (St Mary's), or talk to me.

Adrian



Victim and Survivor Invitation for Past Cases Review 2

There is still an open invitation to anyone who wants to make representations about their experience as a victim or survivor of church related abuse in this diocese to contribute to the national Past Cases Review 2 process which is ongoing in 2021. This in relation to the response they received from the Church, however long ago this may have occurred. Contact details below.

Rachael Spiers, Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

07930 819 279 Rachael.Spiers@LeicesterCofE.org

Peter Holloway, Assistant Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser:

07930 887 984 Peter.Holloway@LeicesterCofE.org

Dedicated independent phone line run by the NSPCC:

0800 80 2020

National Church of England Safeguarding Team:

safeguarding@churchofengland.org

There is also always an open invitation to come forward with information or make a new disclosure regarding church-related abuse or a request for support.

You can read more about the Past Cases Review 2 online at:

www.leicester.anglican.org/safeguarding

CONTACT DETAILS

Vicar: Revd. Adrian Jones 0116 2704268
adrian.jones@zoho.com 07919 262 399

Associate Priest- St Guthlac's: Revd Canon Dr Stephen Foster
safpta6@gmail.com 07966 376905

Assistant Curate: Revd Matthew Gough
revgough@gmail.com 07754 961997

Revd Aphro McCullough

Revd Janet Gasper

Reader: Fiona Wingate

Churchwardens:

David Hunt
Tina Jarvis

churchwardens@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Knighton Benefice Magazine: Nigel Siesage
stmaryknighton.magazine@gmail.com

FOR THE NEWSLETTER Please send material to be included in the next newsletter by **noon Thursday** to administrator@stguthlac-knighton.co.uk

Don't forget to visit the St. Guthlac's Facebook page and website <https://www.stguthlac-knighton.co.uk>

Please pray for the following, who are starting their curacies in our diocese. They were licensed to parishes as lay workers last week and will be ordained as deacons at Michaelmas (Sunday 3 October). Those being ordained priest will also be ordained at Michaelmas (Saturday 2 October).

- Paul Betts, Wigston
- Kas Brown, St Peter Highfields and St Philip, Leicester
- Luke Dobson, Holy Trinity with St John the Divine, Leicester
- Tom Grant, Market Harborough and the Transfiguration – Little Bowden with Lubenham and Great Bowden
- Stephen March, The Hexagon Benefice
- Charles Ndigirwa, St Christopher, Leicester
- Rhianne O'Rourke, Coalville with Bardonia Hill and Ravenstone
- Steve O'Rourke, Hugglescote with Donington, Ellistown and Snibston
- David Palmer, "Elderberries" Fresh Expressions in Harborough Team
- Liz Piki, Loughborough, All Saints with Holy Trinity
- Manuela Schmuki, Leicester Cathedral
- Ali Simpson-Smith, Emmaus Team (St John the Baptist), Leicester
- Steve Sweet, The Cornerstone Team
- Kate Szejnmann, Holy Apostles, Leicester
- Ben Williams, Oadby Great Glen Team

Eco-Tip of the week

Being Seasonal-saving money, improving taste and avoiding air miles.

Last week we spoke about the LOAF (Local, Organic, Animal friendly and Fairly traded) principles being held in tension with one another. We need to nuance 'Local'. Less Co2 emissions are emitted having lorry transported ripe tomatoes grown in Spain than using methane heated greenhouses in Kent to grow crops. We do need to look out for air miles in our purchases and think accordingly. A way to address this is prioritising **Seasonal fruit and vegetables**. This is important for our connection with our environment. Church leads the way on this with harvest festivals. However, in reality, our disconnection with the countryside and farmed means of production mean we are more familiar with supermarket year round produce than what our local seasonal products actually are. But, if we prioritise buying seasonally, it means we have better taste and cheaper produce as well as zero air miles and less Co2. Let's take a quiz (answers at the bottom)*-match which local produce are in season 1) Aug-Oct; 2) Jan-April 3) Sep-March.

a) Broccoli b) Apples c) Cauliflower. If you found that too easy, well done. Some help is out there. Box schemes delivered to your door such as Abel& Cole and Riverford have seasonal box choices. We are blessed (for now!) with Whetstone Pastures which is one of the few remaining Pick Your Own from the ground farms left. Currently abundant strawberries are there for the joy and delight of an afternoon personal harvest. Enjoy!

(1a;2c;3b)*.

